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NO. 7

# LABORATORY BULLETIN DOCUMENTS

MONTANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

HELENA, MONTANA



No. 7 - August 6, 1968

## CHANGES IN SERVICES OFFERED

A program review of the Microbiology Laboratory was carried out last week by a consultant from the National Communicable Disease Center and her recommendations involve changes in services. Therefore, the following are some which are now in effect:

1. The colloidal gold test on spinal fluid has been discontinued.
2. The Kolmer complement-fixation test is no longer performed.
3. "Febrile agglutination tests" are being discontinued.

Antigens for these are *S. typhosa* "O" and "H" and Paratyphoid "A" and "B". Serologic diagnosis of typhoid and paratyphoid fevers is unsatisfactory and misleading. Laboratory assistance in the diagnosis of salmonellosis (typhoid and paratyphoid) can best be rendered by culture of the organisms and this service is available either locally or from the state laboratory.

Agglutination tests for brucellosis or tularemia will still be performed on specific request.

The Weil-Felix test (Agglutination of *Proteus* OX 19, OX K, and OX 2) for Rocky Mountain spotted fever, typhus fever, and scrub typhus were discontinued previously because specific complement-fixation tests are available for all of these. Interpretation of the WF test is difficult unless there is a four-fold rise in titer between an acute and convalescent serum and even then difficulty may be experienced because of non-specific agglutinins.

4. The heterophile agglutination test for infectious mononucleosis is being discontinued in favor of the OX CELL HEMOLYSIN TEST.

This test is more specific than heterophile antibody tests with absorptions. In contrast to the heterophile antibody, the ox-cell hemolysin is not a naturally occurring antibody. The ox cell hemolysin test is also more sensitive than the heterophile test and false positives rarely occur. A negative heterophile in the presence of symptoms highly suggestive of infectious mononucleosis has been a finding difficult to assess.

5. A "Rheumatic Fever Eradication Program" is being organized by three Regional Medical Programs (Colorado-Wyoming, Mountain States, Intermountain) and Montana will participate in this.

As part of the program the Microbiology Laboratory is serving as a "developmental laboratory" for a Microtiter Antistreptolysin "O" test for the National Communicable Disease Center. When we are prepared to offer this test, you will receive a bulletin on the Rheumatic Fever - Streptococcus program.

THESE BULLETINS ARE MAILED TO THE 102 CLINICAL LABORATORIES IN MONTANA AND TO 46 "ASSOCIATED INTERESTS". ASSUMING THAT ALL PHYSICIANS ARE SERVED BY ONE OR MORE OF THESE LABORATORIES, WE ARE DEPENDING ON LABORATORY PERSONNEL TO INFORM THEIR PHYSICIAN CLIENTS OF PERTINENT MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE BULLETINS.

